

Northeast Public Health Labs Teleconference Series

Updated: September 17, 2007

October 1, 2007

Topic: Pertussis Testing using culture method, serology, PCR and other molecular methods

Time: 11 AM – 12 noon Telephone number: 410-786-3100 conference code: 574014

Comment deadline for agenda: September 25, 2007

Facilitator: Peggy DiNatale, QA MA DPH

Email: Margaret.Dinatale@MassMail.State.Ma.Us

Phone: 617-983-6243

Agenda

1. Culture / Serology / PCR – Which methods are used in your lab?
2. Does your lab have specific specimen and patient history criteria to determine which test method is appropriate for testing with each method?
3. What percentage of your specimens are rejected due to non-compliance with specimen acceptability criteria?
4. Test reporting:
 - a. Do you review the results of these assays as a group of test before reporting?
 - b. Do your test reports include any disclaimers?

November 5, 2007

Topic: LRN and CDC SOPS

Time: 11 AM – 12 noon Telephone number: 410-786-3100 conference code: 574014

Comment deadline for agenda: October 29, 2007

Facilitator: Christina Egan, Ph.D., Deputy Director of the Biodefense Laboratory, Wadsworth Center, New York State Department of Health

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Agenda Some examples for discussion may include: Tularemia serology, Brucella serology, Arbovirus, select agent

1. Discuss issues not always covered in the LRN SOPs and how your lab has addressed:
 - a. specimen acceptability criteria
 - b. validation criteria
 - c. validation acceptance
 - d. acceptable ranges for titres for the QC materials
2. Discuss what document control system was implemented in order to track the various versions of the LRN SOPs and how the test date can be tracked to the version used for testing on a particular date. Include a discussion of system in place to verify SOP updates on the CDC or LRN website.
3. Discuss the LRN inventory control project for select agents.

Northeast Public Health Labs Teleconference Series
Updated: September 17, 2007

December 3, 2007

Topic: Quantiferon Testing

Time: 11 AM – 12 noon Telephone number: 410-786-3100 conference code: 574014

Comment deadline for agenda: November 26, 2007

Facilitator: Peggy DiNatale, QA MA DPH

Email: Margaret.Dinatale@MassMail.State.Ma.Us

Phone: 617-983-6243

Agenda

1. Theory behind the Quantiferon test method.
 2. Discuss which populations within your state are being tested using this method.
 3. How is your laboratory managing the timeline for specimen submissions for this test method?
 4. What percentage of specimens has been rejected? What were the reasons for rejection?
 5. Discuss any operational or training problems encountered with the implementation of this method.
 6. Discuss the test report(s) you are issuing to providers for test method.
 7. Describe the communication between your laboratory and the Communicable Disease branch of your health department in regards to Quantiferon testing.
 8. How was this method validated?
 9. How do you validate a new lot of test kits?
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NOTE: 2008 New Conference code

January 7, 2008

Topic: Blood Lead Testing

Time: 11 am – 12 noon Telephone number: 410-786-3100 conference code: 684235

Facilitator: Ed Luce, QA manager, Vermont State Laboratory

Email: eluce@vdh.state.vt.us

Phone: 802-863-7637

Agenda

1. Describe what instrumentation is used for Blood Lead and EP testing
 2. Describe what QC material and action limits are used for test runs
 3. Discuss the action levels and reportable limits in each state
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February 4, 2008

Topic: Shiga toxin Testing

Time: 11 am – 12 noon Telephone number: 410-786-3100 conference code: 684235

Agenda and facilitator TBD

Northeast Public Health Labs Teleconference Series
Updated: September 17, 2007

March 3, 2008

Topic: Processing and Testing Environmental Samples for Biological and Chemical agents

Time: 11 am – 12 noon Telephone number: 410-786-3100 conference code: 684235

Facilitator: Peggy DiNatale, QA MA DPH

Email: Margaret.DiNatale@MassMail.State.Ma.Us

Phone: 617-983-6243

Agenda

1. What screening is required to be performed by the first responders before the State Lab will accept the sample?
 2. When an environmental sample needs to be sent to the State Lab, are first responders instructed to collect: (a) most or all of the sample; (b) an aliquot of the sample; (c) a swab of the sample?
 3. What is the acceptable protocol for handling suspect envelopes in the field? Must they be closed or open when they are submitted to the lab?
 4. What chemical screening is performed by your state's first responders?
 5. After the lab's biohazard testing is negative, what chemical testing is performed by the LRN-C lab?
 6. What trainings are your BT/CT labs providing to first responders?
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April 7, 2008

Topic: Sequence Analysis for Bacteria and Mycobacteria

Time: 11 am – 12 noon Telephone number: 410-786-3100 conference code: 684235

Facilitator: Kimberly Musser, Ph.D. - Director, Bacteriology Laboratory, Wadsworth Center

Email: musser@wadsworth.org

Phone: 518-473-2780

Agenda

1. What sequence analysis assays are used in your laboratory? Are they used for identification or characterization?
2. Are any of these assays reported on clinical samples as a stand alone test or in conjunction with classical methods? Is any environmental sequence analysis performed?
3. How are these tests validated? What databases are utilized?
4. How are they being reported? Are these results reported in conjunction with the results of conventional test methods?

Some examples for discussion may include: 16S, 23S, rpoB, katG, embB, pncA for TB resistance, KPC gene, tcdC deletion in *C. difficile*

Northeast Public Health Labs Teleconference Series
Updated: September 17, 2007

May 5, 2008

Topic: Biosafety for High Containment Laboratories

Time: 11 am – 12 noon Telephone number: 410-786-3100 conference code: 684235

Facilitator: Christina Egan, Ph.D. – Deputy Director, Biodefense Laboratory, Wadsworth Center
Email: cte01@health.state.ny.us Phone: 518-473-6900

Agenda

1. Recommendations for PPE and serum banking
 2. BT agent surveillance (culture and molecular)
 3. Staff proficiency strategies for BSL3 laboratories
 4. Select agent storage and inventory
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June 2, 2008

Topic: NELAC Accreditation for Laboratories Testing BioThreat Samples

Time: 11 am – 12 noon Telephone number: 410-786-3100 conference code: 684235

Facilitator - Christina Egan, Ph.D. - Deputy Director, Biodefense Laboratory
Email: cte01@health.state.ny.us Phone: 518-473-6900

Agenda

1. Staff qualifications for analysts
 2. QA/QC procedures for biothreat sample processing
 3. Issues with laboratories complying with both CLIA and NELAC standards
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July 7, 2008

Topic: ELISA testing

Time: 11 am – 12 noon Telephone number: 410-786-3100 conference code: 684235

Facilitator TBD

Tentative Agenda

1. Who performs ELISA testing in your state laboratory? One laboratory or multiple laboratories.
 2. What ELISA testing does your laboratory perform? (Brucella, Tularemia, DigiELISA for FERN botulinum assay, other assays)
 3. How do you perform these assays
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